FALLEN SYNDICATE

presents

Sylph Anthology: Literature Boys

Part 2: Tales of Old Japan

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シルフテーマアンソロジー

文学彼氏

SYLPH THEME ANTHOLOGY

LITERATURE BOYS

シルフテーマアンソロジー

文学彼氏

テーマ2

日本昔話

Tales of Old Japan

AUTHOR'S LINEUP

ILLUST
TOURU ASAKI

COMIC
MEMECO ARII

COMIC
SATORU OKAMOTO

COMIC
NAKI HIRAKU

COMIC
KUROMAME

COMIC
WAKA NAKAGAWA

Issun Boushi The stingy who despite the fact he looks delicate is confident. Issun boshi (after using the figurative magic wand) and, though strong looking, the weak hearted and good natured demon- they seem rough but they're good travel companions

You might be wondering why somebody like me would find themselves on this sandy beach. I'm also at a loss as to why my sister drove me out of the house...
SFX: FWOO
My name is Tsuruoka Uratarou. I'm an idle game-otaku shut-in.
THE REAL SEA LOOKS 3D.
VEN-TURE OUT-SIDE!
RISK A LITTLE!
Memeco Arii
ありいめめこ
URASHIMA TAROU GOES TO THE SEA
YOU, YOU!
THOSE ARE KAPPA FINGERS, AREN'T THEY?
kick
pow
bonk
whack
THAT TURTLE BASTARD.
HM?
BUT THAT'S THE REAL WORLD FOR YOU: THERE'S NO EVENT PLANNED...
AH! AN UNEMPLOYED PERSON! RUN!
HEY BRATS! LEAVE SOME EXPERIENCE POINTS FOR ME!
SFX: STEP STEP
The Palace of the Dragon King!
As my thanks, I'll take you to...
SFX: SHIINEE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
TCH! RECENTLY, KIDS HAVE BEEN HURTING OTHERS FAR TOO EASILY...
SFX: THROB...

SO THE PRINCESS OTOHIME IS ALSO A SHUT-IN...?
THE PRINCESS IS BORED OF LIVING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA AND DEMANDED FRIENDS FROM THE GROUND...
THE FLOUNDERS DANCE
PALACE OF THE DRAGON KING
THAT'S... THIS FORM IS SO THAT I CAN BRING A HUMAN MORE EASILY TO THE PRINCESS...
UM... MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE YOU A NORMAL HUMAN...
...WHAT!? AM I HAVING THE PLEASURE OF TALKING TO THE "URASHIMA TAROU" FROM THE LEGENDS!?
fear of strangers
SFX: GUL GUL GUL
SO IT'S LIKE THAT!
WELL THEN, LET'S GO!!
ALRIGHT THEN. SINCE I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME AND I DON'T REALLY HAVE FRIENDS HERE EITHER, I MIGHT AS WELL GO.
SFX: PHEW
WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO BREATHE UNDERWATER!
Urashima from the past...
S-SORRY... BUT WE'LL MAKE IT TO THE CASTLE SOMEHOW!
Shouldn't that be obvious...?
Cough, cough! I need a bubble barrier, or an endless breath or something...!
nervous
gasp
pant
SFX: COUGH COUGH COUGH

YOU STUPID TURTLE!
And three years later—
I WAITED FOR THIS LONG, AND YOU BROUGHT BACK A GUY!
WHAT I WANTED WAS A GIRL FRIEND TO HAVE GIRLS' TALK WITH!
THIS BOX.
ANYWAY, PRINCESS
GO TO THE SHORE ONCE MORE!
ヒー
ぴち
ぴち
SFX: WHAT? (NEXT TO THE TURTLE)
SFX: LIVELY
SFX: SHOCK!
ガーン!
Whoaa a real princess
BUT WE'VE ALREADY BUILT UP HIS QUALIFICATIONS AS A DIVER, AS WELL AS HIS PHYSICAL STRENGTH!!
WELL, DID YOU SHAPE HIM INTO A GOOD-LOOKING GUY?!

YOU CAN CONNECT ONLINE VIA THE NET, AND MAKE AS MANY FRIENDS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS YOU'D LIKE.
THIS... IS A GAME CONSOLE.
WATERPROOF
EH!? IS IT OK FOR ME TO GO?
ALRIGHT, TURTLE LET'S GO.
Ooh! So this this is where you register your account and log in!?
NE-NET!? IS THAT THE RUMOURED...!?
I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE, SO IF YOU'D LIKE IT, THEN...
FOR ME TO USE SUCH A MYSTERIOUS THING .!
SFX: _!
HOW DOES THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA SOUND?
Squeal- diving is fun!
WHICH SEA ARE WE GOING TO NEXT?
AS YOU'D THINK, OTOHIME-CHAN IS GOOD IN THE SEA ARENAS.
The people from the Palace of the Dragon King have a lot of online friends now.
And they lived happily ever after.
THE END.

Mount Ashi-gara
HOW PERPLEXING
WITH THIS GIGANTIC ROCK IN THE WAY, WE CAN'T RETURN TO THE CAPITAL, MASTER YORIMITSU
HM..
HOW SHOULD WE DO THIS...?
OLD MAN,
IF YOU'RE TROUBLED, THEN HOW ABOUT I HELP YOU?
Satoru Okamoto
オカモト サトル
[GOLD BOY]
SFX: WHOOSH
!!
SFX: LAND
WHO ARE YOU!?
...I AM
KIN
TA
ROU!!
SFX: SLOW
T/N: Kintarou = Gold Boy

SFX: GRAB
SFX: SPEECHLESS
I AM THE GOVERNOR OF SETSUNO, MINAMOTO NO YORI-MITSU!
WONDERFUL, KINTAROU!! I'M MOVED!!
WO-
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU HAVE THE QUALITIES OF A GREAT WARRIOR.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME TO THE CAPITAL?
WARRIOR
CAPITAL?
THAT'S RIGHT, I CAN'T LEAVE A BEAUTY LIKE YOU.
HEY, HEY! YOU PERV!
KINTAROU IS THE LEADER OF MOUNT ASHIGARA!! I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO KIDNAP HIM!!
KUMAKICHI!

KUMAKICHI, WHAT'S A PERV?
IT'S GUYS LIKE THEM WHO ARE DANGEROUS!
KUMAKICHI, YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING.
I'M A SIMPLE MAN WHO VALUES.
OUT-STANDING TALENT...
COME NOW, KINTAROU, WON'T YOU JOIN ME TO THE CAPITAL!?
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO DOWN YOUR OPPONENT,
I'LL ALSO SLEEP WITH YOU, SO THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT!!
HAVE BATHS WITH YOU SO THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE...
Ahh, this feels good.
You prepare your sword like this
Are you cold?
THAT'S WHAT I WORRY ABOUT!!
KINTAROU, YOU CANNOT GO!!
NO, YOU HAVE COME!!
HURRY UP AND LEAVE, YOU BASTARD!
SHUT UP, SAVAGE!!
むー
SFX: HMMPH

SFX: SLASH
NO FIGHTING!!
MAKE UP, YOU TWO!!
HEEY! YOU BASTARD!!
Oooh, what a nice kid!! I'm falling deeper and deeper in love <3
In the end, wonderfully grown Kintarou went with Yorimitsu and his company. The punishment of the demons is another story.
THE END
SFX: KYAH! <3

T/N: Yuki-onna is a japanese ghost/monster. The name translates into "Snow Woman".

Naki Hiraku

YUKI-ONNA'S YOUNGER BROTHER

"This time, I'll become happy," my sister said as she left our house. And now, in order to find her, I travelled to the human dwellings...
AND GOT LOST IMMEDIATELY
NUMBER 6... IS...
SFX: SIGH...
YES...
UM.. EXCUSE ME.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND NUMBER 6, MR. TATENO'S HOUSE?

SFX: FWAP
I will never believe another human man again!
NUMBER 6 SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE, SO WE SHOULD FIND IT QUICKLY...
SUCH AN IDIOT!!
SFX: START
SISTER!!
Yukitaka! You came for me!
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME...
teehee
lick
WITH YOU RUNNING WILDLY LIKE THAT, I WAS WORRIED YOU'D FROZEN THE MAN..
SFX: FWAP

SFX: SIGH
I'm amazing!!
It's OK
I MADE SURE THAT HIS BODY HAD FROSTBITE!!
SO THAT'S THAT...
DID SHE HEAR?
SFX: STARE
SFX: AH!
DO YOU... KNOW THE LEGEND OF THE YUKI-ONNA?
YOU MUST NEVER TELL ANYBODY ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE SEEN JUST NOW.
IF YOU DO, I CAN GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL LOSE YOUR LIFE.
SFX: HOOOWL
SFX: STEP

SFX: SMILE
YES!
I KNOW! AND THEN THE TWO OF THEM REUNITE AND FALL IN LOVE, RIGHT?
UM...
YES...
SFX: BLUSH
I found my sister, safe and sound... and I also accidentally found... something like fate.
DAMMIT, SISTER!
Now that I look at you, you're quite a cute glasses-girl <3
AH!
SFX: THUMBS UP
THE END

T/N: Chunkichi: Chun = chirp, kichi = good luck

My partner, the intelligent sparrow Chunkichi,

can converse, so he gives off an intelligent feeling indeed.

THE TONGUE-CUT SPARROW'S REPAYMENT.

Kuromame
くろまめ

SFX: RATTLE

CHUN-KICHI!!

Anyhow, even though I loved Chunkichi,

One day...

THAT'S MANJUU, CHUNKICHI.

I CAN SMELL EASY MONEY HERE! THERE MUST BE SOME OLD HAG'S HIDDEN STASH!

ANIKI!

T/N: Manjuu is a japanese steamed yeast bun with filling – sounds yummy!

THAT MAN.... IS HE OK?

ROGER THAT!

DON'T GO TOO FAR OFF~ IT'S DANGEROUS THERE

→ Other people don't understand

ヒソヒソ ヒソヒソ

SFX: WHISPER WHISPER

BLOOD
SFX: SQUEEK SQUEEK SQUEEL
What an impudent guy
Shut up! I cut the sparrow's tongue to stop its chirping.
The thought crossed my mind, but...
He flew away after having his tongue cut.
And so I set out to find him.
HE
HE WAS EATEN ?!

すずめのお宿
NOW, POLITELY...
SIGN: THE SPARROW INN
Aaah! If it's about tongue-cut Chunkichi, then...
Come this way~
I'll go and let him know of your arrival, so please stay here for now!
THIS IS A SPARROW INN, AND YET I CAN'T HEAR ANY BIRDS... BUT THERE'S A PRESENCE OF A BIRD...
STRANGE...
SFX: FIDGET FIDGET
EH!? REALLY!?

ANIKI! YOU CAME! I'M HAPPY BUT...
IT'S QUITE AWKWARD THOUGH... WITH THE POWER OF THE "INN", I TURNED INTO A HUMAN. I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT.
I FELT PITY TOWARDS YOU, ANIKI, SO I THOUGHT I'D TALK TELEPATHICALLY WITH YOU. DID YOU THINK I WAS SPEAKING?
YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY FACE, BUT YOU'RE LACKING IN OTHER RESPECTS.
Ah! Do you have some sparrow headgear or something?
...HEY!
CHUNKI-CHI!!
SFX: BANG

SFX: STARTLED
SFX: SHAMELESS
I'm thankful to meet you!
A...
Aniki!
SO THAT WASN'T CHUNKICHI JUST NOW?
A SPARROW LIED?!

I WAS SO WORRIED, THAT I'M AT A LOSS.
This is quite bad... Aniki, it was a joke! A joke!

CHUNKICHI, WITH THAT GAP IN YOUR FACE, YOU'VE BECAME A SUCH PITIABLE CREATURE, HAVEN'T YOU...?
SFX HEH

じろじろ
What is it, Aniki?
SFX STARE STARE

Chunkichi is fine
THE NAME "CHUNKICHI" SEEMS STRANGE NOW..

SFX: SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
It's a name you chose for me, so I'm happy.
CHUNKI-CHI—
SFX: TOUCHED
I'm grateful that you were so kind to me.
かきかき
A GIFT? WHAT SHOULD I DO, I'M LOST...
SFX: HMMM
Which one will you choose the bigger box, or the smaller box?
Before you go home, I've got some-thing for you!
A-Aniki!

IN THE BIGGER ONE, THERE MIGHT BE DEMONS AND CURSES, I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
THERE'S GOLD IN THE SMALLER ONE.

SFX: SMILE
ニコニコ
!!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THE BIGGER ONE. IT'LL BE INTERESTING.

EH!?
YOU JUST USED YOUR VOICE.
SFX: STARTLED

THE END

SFX: SL M
中川わか
Waka Nakagawa
MOMOTAROU
スパーン
LET'S GO DEMON HUNTING!
MOMO!!
HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO LAZE ABOUT!?
MOMOTAROU
NICKNAME: MOMO
I DON'T WANT TO!
In modern times. In a certain place...
There is a boy named Momotarou.
SFX DAAM
T/N: K means pheasant
KIJITANI
SFX: FIDDLE FIDDLE
CLINK
WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS, MOMOTAROU...
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ANCESTORS AND SUCH.
.....!
PISSED OFF
YOU SADDEN THE SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF MOMO-TAROUS
TYPICAL NEET
IT'S A LOT OF EFFORT AND I DON'T WANT TO MOVE OR GO OUTSIDE
LAZY
DAMN YOU.
YOU SEE MOCHI-TSUKI

SFX GLARE
EVERYONE, LOOK AT THE NEWS!! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THE DEMONS ARE GOING RAMPANT!?
SAROUEL
HEY, MOMO! LET'S WORK HARD STARTING TOMORROW! NO... NOW!
KEN-CHAN
YOU'RE MY SERVANTS, AREN'T YOU?
AND WHAT OF IT?
reluctant
DEFEAT THE DEMONS
SFX SNAP
SFX OUCH
SFX WHACK
SO?
WHAT'S THIS DEMON EXTERMINATING ALL ABOUT?

SFX TA-DAM
WE WHACK THEM AND SMACK THEM AND PROTECT THE HUMAN WORLD!!
YES, YES
SFX TA-DAM
The four of us will work together and exterminate the demons!
NO KEN-CHAN THAT'S THE BIT I DON'T UNDERSTAND
SFX WAAH
Come on! Don't fight!
SFX AH? COME ON
EVEN THOUGH IF I WASN'T HERE THE STORY WOULDN'T EXIST HOW AUDACIOUS
SFX AH? YOU
AA?
You have a complaint, you lying lazy bum.
SFX WHHPP
SFX TCH
SINCE THE DEMONS WREAK HAVOC IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HUMAN WORLD WE MUST FIGHT ON MOMOTAROU'S SIDE
THAT'S HOW IT IS
YES BUT YOU KNOW...
MORE IMPORTANTLY WHY DO I STILL HAVE TO FIGHT AFTER SO LONG AGO?
ISN'T IT STUPID? LET'S JUST PUT AN END TO IT...
SFX CREAK CREAK...
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A MOMO-TAROU...
SEARCH FOR PART-NERS?
THE TIME WHEN DEMONS SEARCH FOR PARTNERS IS COMING SOON. WE HAVE TO QUICKLY EXTERMINATE THEM!
THAT'S THE CUSTOM

THAT'S WHY IT'S OUR DUTY TO PREVENT THAT!!
HUH..... SO THEY TAKE THEM AND MARRY IN THE DEMON WORLD? HOW PITIABLE.
horrible
SFX ANNOYED
JUST AS WE DO GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, THE DEMONS YIELD THE TITLE OF THE HEAD TO THEIR HEIRS
AT SUCH A TIME THEY COME TO THE HUMAN WORLD AND SEARCH FOR PARTNERS
I THINK IT'S BEST THAT WE GO TO ONIGASHIMA TO CONCLUDE PEACE AGREEMENTS
EH? IS THAT OK?
THAT'S RIGHT.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT IT'S CUSTOMARY EARLIER.
IT'S OK IF WE GO ALL THE WAY TO ONIGASHIMA BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM WHAT SHOULD WE DO ONCE WE GET THERE, KIJITANI-SAN?
SFX GRAAW! GRRAH!
ONIGA-SHIMA
SFX SILENCE
SFX EEEEEVIL

THIS
...SO?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
THIS IS TOO SCARY...
SFX: BA-THUMP
SFX: EEEEVIL
UMM... MR. DEMON,
WE LOVE PEACE.
IF WE CAN, WE'D LIKE TO MAKE VARIOUS INDISPUTABLE SETTLEMENTS
SFX: JOLT
SO ARE YOU MOMO-TAROU?
YE-I YES!!
.....
NG!
SFX: TREMBLE
SFX: GLARE

I HEARD RUMOURS ABOUT YOU BUT
IF SUCH A WEAKLING LIKE YOU IS MOMOTAROU THEN THE WORLD IS TRULY ENDING
FA. FATHER... IT'S RUDE TO TALK LIKE THAT TO MOMOTAROU-DONO
YOU SHUT UP, KIKI.
Kiki...?
Oh right, Ken-chan and Saruwel said the time when demons search for partners is coming soon.
Is this girl a successor?
!
ぱち
TURNS
SFX: BLINK

SFX: FWISH
ゆらぁ…
SFX: ANNOYED
You bastard. You've just made eye contact with my daughter, haven't you..?
...erase.
EH? EEEEK!
……?
Eh? She's shy...
DO YOU INTEND TO PLAY INNOCENT, YOU BASTARD?!
YOU KNOW, RIGHT!?
F-FATHER!
WHA! WAI! WAIT A MINUTE! LET'S THINK ABOUT...!
MOMO, STAY BACK!!
SFX: JUMP

SFX EEEEK
BUT PLEASE, LET ME TAKE HIM AS A HUSBAND!
HE MIGHT BE A BIT RUDE...
SFX PUSH
WHA...
SFX BLUSH
MOMO-TAROU-DONO.
SFX BA-THUMP
No, I DON'T WANNA!
YOU BASTARDS, THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO APPROVE OF THIS!
SFX STAB
And they lived happily ever after...?
THE END

ILLUSTRATION
"ISSUN BOUSHI" BY TOURU ASAKI

Story: The story begins with an old, childless couple who lives alone. The old woman wished for a child of her own, despite her old age. "Please, please let us have a child, no matter how small." Eventually, a son was born to them. But small indeed was the child—no larger than a grown man's fingertip. They named the miniature child Issun-bōshi (Issun is a measure of approximately 3 centimeters. Bōshi means son). The child, even though being incredibly small, was treated well by his parents. One day, the boy realizes that he will never grow, so he goes on a trip to seek for his place in the world. Fancying himself as a miniature samurai, Issun-boshi is given a sewing needle for a sword, a soup bowl for a boat, and chopsticks for oars.

He sails down river to the city, where he petitions for a job with the government and goes to the home of a wealthy daimyo, whose daughter is an attractive princess. He is scorned for his height, but is nevertheless given the job of accompanying the princess as her playmate. While they travel together, they are suddenly attacked by an oni, who deals with the pesky boy by swallowing him. The boy defeats the Oni by pricking him from within with his needle/sword. The Oni spits out Issun-boshi and drops the magical Uchide's Mallet as he runs away. As a reward for his bravery, the princess uses the power of the mallet to grow him to full size. Issun-boshi and the princess remain close companions and eventually wed.

COMIC 1
"URASHIMA TAROU GOES TO THE SEA" BY MEMECO ARII

Story: Young fisherman Urashima Tarō had been fishing one day, when he noticed a group of children torturing a small turtle. Tarō saves it and lets it return to the sea. The very next day, a huge turtle approaches him and tells him that the small turtle he had saved was the daughter of the Emperor of the Sea, Ryūjin, who wanted to see him to thank him. The turtle magically gives Tarō gills and brings him to the bottom of the sea, to the Palace of the Dragon God (Ryūgū-jō). There, he meets the Emperor and the small turtle, who was now a lovely princess, Otohime.

Tarō stays there with her for a few days, but soon wants to go back to his village and see his aging mother, so he requests Otohime's permission to leave. The princess says that she is sorry to see him go, but wishes him well and gives him a mysterious box called tamatebako which will protect him from harm but which she tells him never to open. Taro grabs the box, jumps on the back of the same turtle that had brought him there, and soon is at the seashore.

When he goes home, everything had changed. His home was gone, his mother had vanished, and the people he knew were nowhere to be seen. He asked if anybody knew a man named Urashima Taro, to which they answered that they had heard someone of that name who vanished at sea long ago. He discovers that 300 years have passed since the day he left for the bottom of the sea. Struck by grief, he absent-mindedly opens the box the princess had given him, from which bursts forth a cloud of white smoke. He is suddenly aged, his beard long and white, and his back bent. From the sea comes the sad, sweet voice of the princess. "I told you not to open that box. In it was your old age..."

COMIC 2
"GOLD BOY" BY SATORU OKAMOTO

Story: Several competing stories tell of Kintarō's childhood. In one, he was raised by his mother, Princess Yaegiri, daughter of a wealthy man named Shiman-chōja, in the village of Jizodo, near Mt. Kintoki. In a competing legend, his mother gave birth to him in what is now Sakata. She was forced to flee, however, due to fighting between her husband, a samurai named Sakata, and his uncle. She finally settled in the forests of Mt. Kintoki to raise her son. Alternatively, Kintarō's real mother left the child in the wilds or died and left him an orphan, and he was raised by the mountain witch Yama-uba (one tale says Kintaro's mother raised him in the wilds, but due to her haggard appearance, she came to be called Yama-uba). In the most fanciful version of the tale, Yama-uba was Kintaro's mother, impregnated by a clap of thunder sent from a red dragon of Mt. Ashigara.

The legends agree that even as a toddler, Kintaro was active and indefatigable, plump and ruddy, wearing only a bib with the kanji for "gold" (金) on it. His only other accoutrement was a hatchet. He was bossy to other children (or there simply were no other children in the forest), so his friends were mainly the animals of Mt. Kintoki and Mt. Ashigara. He was also phenomenally strong, able to smash rocks into pieces, uproot trees, and bend trunks like twigs. His animal friends served him as messengers and mounts, and some legends say that he even learned to speak their language. Several tales tell of Kintarō's adventures, fighting monsters and demons, beating bears in sumo wrestling, and helping the local woodcutters fell trees.

As an adult, Kintaro changed his name to Sakata no Kintoki. He met the samurai Minamoto no Yorimitsu as he passed through the area around Mt. Kintoki. Yorimitsu was impressed by Kintarō's enormous strength, so he took him as one of his personal retainers to live with him in Kyoto. Kintoki studied martial arts there and eventually became the chief of Yorimitsu's Shitennō ("four braves"), renowned for his strength and martial prowess. He eventually went back for his mother and brought her to Kyoto as well.

COMIC 3
"YUKI-ONNA'S YOUNGER BROTHER" BY NAKI HIRAKU

Story: There are many legends in which the Yuki-onna appears. This is one of them.

A long time ago, there lived two woodcutters. Minokichi and Mosaku. Minokichi was young and Mosaku was very old.

One winter day, they could not come back home because of a snowstorm. They found a but in the mountain and decided to sleep there. On this particular evening, Mosaku woke up and found a beautiful lady with white clothes. She breathed on old Mosaku and he was frozen to death.

She then approached Minokichi to breathe on him, but stared at him for a while, and said, "I thought I was going to kill you, the same as that old man, but I will not, because you are young and beautiful. You must not tell anyone about this incident. If you tell anyone about me, I will kill you."

Several years later, Minokichi met a beautiful young lady, named Oyuki (yuki = "snow") and married her. She was a good wife. Minokichi and Oyuki had several children and lived happily for many years. Mysteriously, she did not age.

One night, after the children were asleep, Minokichi said to Oyuki, "Whenever I see you, I am reminded of a mysterious incident that happened to me. When I was young, I met a beautiful young lady like you. I do not know if it was a dream or if she was a Yuki-onna—"

After finishing his story, Oyuki suddenly stood up, and said "That woman you met was me! I told you that I would kill you if you ever told anyone about that incident. However, I can't kill you because of our children. So, please take care of our children—" She then melted and disappeared. No one saw her ever again.

COMIC 4
"THE TONGUE-CUT SPARROW'S REPAYMENT" BY KUROMAME

Story: Once upon a time there lived a poor old woodcutter with his wife, who earned their living by cutting wood and fishing. The old man was honest and kind but his wife was arrogant and greedy. One morning, the old man went into the mountains to cut timber and saw an injured sparrow crying out for help. Feeling sorry for the bird, the man takes it back to his home and feeds it some rice to try to help it recover. His wife, being very greedy and rude, is annoyed that he would waste precious food on such a small little thing as a sparrow. The old man, however, continued caring for the bird.

The man had to return to the mountains one day and left the bird in the care of the old woman, who had no intention of feeding it. After her husband left, she went out fishing. While she was gone, the sparrow got into some starch that was left out and eventually ate all of it. The old woman was so angry upon her return that she cut out the bird's tongue and sent it flying back into the mountains from where it came.

The old man went searching for the bird and, with the help of other sparrows, found his way into a bamboo grove in which the sparrow's inn was located. A multitude of sparrows greeted him and led him to his friend, the little sparrow he saved. The others brought him food and sang and danced for him.

Upon his departure, they presented him with a choice of a large basket or a small basket as a present. Being an older man, he chose the small basket as he thought it would be the least heavy. When he arrived home, he opened the basket and discovered a large amount of treasure inside. The wife, learning of the existence of a larger basket, ran to the sparrow's inn in the hope of getting more treasure for herself. She chose the larger basket but was warned not to open it before getting home.

Such was her greed that the wife could not resist opening the basket before she returned to the house. To her surprise, the box was full of deadly snakes and other monsters. They startled her so much that she tumbled all the way down the mountain, presumably to her death.

COMIC 5
"MOMOTAROU" BY WAKA NAKAGAWA

Story: According to the present form of the tale (dating to the Edo period), Momotarō came to Earth inside a giant peach, which was found floating down a river by an old, childless woman who was washing clothes there. The woman and her husband discovered the child when they tried to open the peach to eat it. The child explained that he had been sent by Heaven to be their son. The couple named him Momotarō, from momo (peach) and tarō (eldest son in the family).

Years later, Momotarō left his parents to fight a band of marauding oni (demons or ogres) on a distant island. En route, Momotarō met and befriended a talking dog, monkey, and pheasant, who agreed to help him in his quest. At the island, Momotarō and his animal friends penetrated the demons' fort and beat the band of demons into surrendering. Momotarō and his new friends returned home with the demons' plundered treasure and the demon chief as a captive. Momotarō and his family lived comfortably from then on.

HELP!

FALLEN SYNDICATE
IS LOOKING FOR...

JAPANESE TO ENGLISH TRANSLATORS!!!!

FOR DEVIL SUMMONER,
SOREDEMO SEKAI WA UTSUKUSHII & RED RAVEN

& REDRAWERS

PLEASE APPLY!!

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